

Human Love

I'd like to look back on my life and have no regrets, and I may have if it hadn't been for Pat's (my spouse's) death. With her gone, I asked God for help, willing to follow wherever he led. He first gave me an understanding of who he was so that my beliefs were made clear, particularly as it relates to his love. (See [Steve's God Thoughts](#).) Because of that, I had a better understanding of God's love vs human love and realized I had been living a Christian life using human love. I believed in Jesus and his love, however, I was perfectly content with human love. I reminded myself with rules about how to love Pat (see [Relationship Principles](#)) to make my love the best I could, not realizing that God's love through me went far beyond what I was able to do on my own.

As humans, we are not capable on our own of consistent, unconditional love. The truest love involves complete surrender to the other person, which is not possible with human love because *self* gets in the way. It can only happen if you first love God by surrendering totally to him and then his love can flow through you as you surrender totally to your partner. (See [Love Is Surrender](#).)

What hurts is that if Pat had not died, I would have just continued on in my life thinking this is as good as it gets. It's like God had to pick me up and shake me saying, "I tried to tell you earlier, but you weren't listening." I was too busy loving her to the best of my ability to notice that God had a better way. Human love may be good, but God's love is better. I wish I had realized this while she was still alive. Now I just hope there's a way to apologize to her.

You may think you are doing fine using human love, but you could have the same regrets if you never fully surrender to God and to your spouse. It's a different kind of love when, with God's help, you can take *self* totally out of the equation and share in a true love that comes with surrendering *yourself* to each other. Even if only one of you does this, the other will eventually be upended by your unconditional love and follow your lead. Plus your love horizon is expanded from just your spouse to the whole world – as God intended. Do it now (see [A Way Out Now](#)) before God has to "shake you up" to get your attention, so you can spend the rest of your life as God intended it to be.

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